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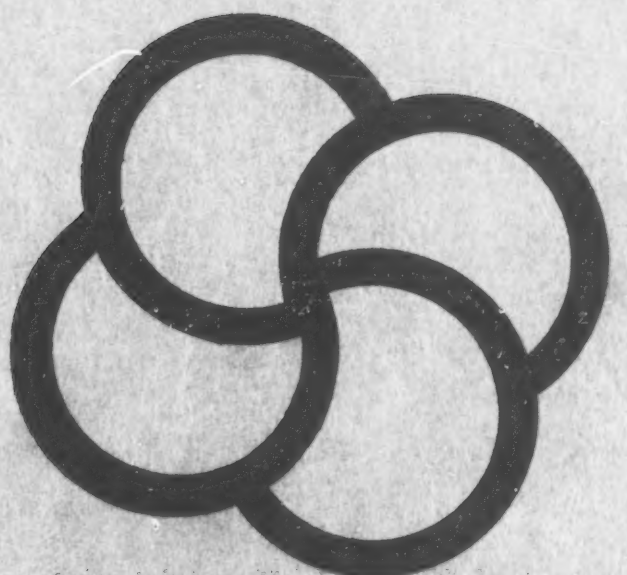
Judicial Department of Missouri

Annual Statistical Report

FY 1979 - system in transition



Office of State Courts Administrator
1105 Rear Southwest Boulevard
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

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Judicial Department
of Missouri

Annual Statistical Report

1979 - system in transition

Office of State Courts Administrator
1105 Rear Southwest Boulevard
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

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Supreme Court of Missouri
Jefferson City
65101

John E. Bardgett
CHIEF JUSTICE
(314) 751-2594

THOMAS F. SIMON
CLERK
(314) 751-4144

JAMES M. PARKISON
STATE COURTS ADMINISTRATOR
(314) 751-4377

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR, MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY:

On behalf of the Judicial Department of Missouri, I transmit the Annual Statistical Report. The report contains data for fiscal year 1979 from the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and circuit courts.

The theme of this year's report, "System In Transition," is most appropriate. During the year many programs moved from the planning stages into action, including implementation of the Missouri Constitution's revised judicial article, its enabling legislation and the revised criminal code. These measures had a positive impact on the courts that will continue to be felt in years to come.

Eight years ago, the Judicial Department began improving the methods used to collect and analyze information on court operations. The availability of data has increased since the Statewide Judicial Information System was implemented, and as the system is refined more detailed data will be available.

The 1979 judicial report includes for the first time county data for the state's associate circuit divisions. Like last year's report, summary data and discussion of the year's activities are emphasized. Our intention in organizing this report is to present information clearly and in a useful format. We hope you will find this report helpful in the months ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Bardgett
Chief Justice and Presiding
Officer of the Judicial
Conference of Missouri

OFFICE OF STATE COURTS ADMINISTRATOR

1105 REAR SOUTHWEST BOULEVARD

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI
65101

JAMES M. PARKISON
ADMINISTRATOR

TELEPHONE
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- F O R E W O R D -

This report represents the joint efforts of circuit and division clerks, clerks of the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court, and the staff of the Office of State Courts Administrator. Without the cooperation of all these people, the report would not have been completed.

The 1979 statistical report contains statewide summaries and analyses of action in the state's courts. The statistics are more than just numbers. Each processed case represents a conflict or problem experienced by people and, ideally, a fair solution. We hope this information is packaged in a manner that provides quick and easy reference.

The report also includes narrative sections in which general trends are discussed. We emphasized changes that took place within the judiciary this year, and concentrated especially on making these narrative sections clear and readable.

Our data processing facilities and staff were used to compile the data for this report. In future years we expect to expand our capabilities to collect, analyze and publish judicial data on a timely basis.

The data processing staff and facilities transform court transactions into statistics and can supply more detailed data than is provided here. Anyone interested in obtaining extra copies of this report or more detailed statistics should contact the Office of State Courts Administrator, 1105 Rear Southwest Boulevard, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

James M. Parkison
State Courts Administrator

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 1, 1978 — JUNE 30, 1979

STATE OF MISSOURI

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Important changes took place within the Missouri judicial system during the 1979 fiscal year. After extensive preparation, measures designed to bring about statewide court reform were put into motion, and the judicial system underwent a major transition.

The basis for the 1979 judicial overhaul was the new judicial article of the Missouri Constitution, ratified by the voters on August 3, 1976. The article mandated a number of changes---among them the unification of courts of limited jurisdiction into a single trial court. The article went into effect on January 2, 1979.

But the article was only the foundation for reform. Details for a smooth transition were provided in the Court Reform and Revision Act (HB 1634), as passed by the General Assembly on April 30, 1978. Implementation of the Act began on January 2nd. While much of the legislation was technical, it provided statutory framework needed to consolidate the courts and make the system more flexible.

The article required all state courts be abolished except the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and the circuit court. Circuit courts became the state's only trial courts and absorbed all functions of the magistrate, probate, municipal and common pleas courts. The St. Louis Court of Criminal Correction was also eliminated.

To handle the circuit caseload, three categories of judges were mandated: circuit judges (those who were circuit judges when the article took effect, probate judges in counties with populations of more than 65,000 and the judges of the St. Louis Court of Criminal Correction); associate circuit judges (magistrates and probate judges in counties with populations of less than 65,000); and municipal judges. Cities with more than 400,000 residents must, and those with less than 400,000 may, make provisions for a municipal judge to hear ordinance violation cases.

Each category of judge was given a specific jurisdiction. However, the article allows associate circuit judges to be assigned cases normally outside their jurisdiction. For example, an associate circuit judge may be assigned to hear a civil case where the amount of money involved is more than $5,000 - a case that normally would be heard by a circuit judge. The flexibility in respect to the use of associate judges means twice as many judges are now available to hear cases which formerly were only in the jurisdiction of circuit judges.

These temporary assignments are made by the presiding judge who has general administrative authority over a circuit. The position of presiding judge, mandated by the

judicial article, must be filled by a circuit judge who is elected by his fellow circuit and associate circuit judges.

The article also requires that the state assume the bulk of local court payrolls. During the 1979 fiscal year all juvenile court commissioners and the probate commissioners of St. Louis and Jackson counties were added to the state payroll. By July 1, 1981, the salaries of circuit clerks, deputy circuit clerks, division clerks and court reporters will all be paid by the state.

In all, 1,200 - 1,600 court employees will be transferred from county to state payrolls. In February 1979 a personnel section was established within the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA). This section began work on a personnel inventory to establish uniform job titles and salaries for all local court employees.

Missouri's revised criminal code went into effect on January 1, 1979. The new code is the most extensive revision of Missouri's criminal laws since 1835. Enacted by the state Legislature in 1978, the revisions repealed the code's more archaic provisions and simplified its language. OSCA conducted statewide training sessions for the judiciary and prepared materials to assist law enforcement and corrections agencies in working with the new code.

A new Speedy Trial Law went into effect this year. As of September 1, 1978, a defendant must be arraigned within 10 days of filing of an information or indictment and tried within 180 days if he pleads "not guilty."

In anticipation of space problems created by additional judgeships and caseloads, the Supreme Court's Judicial Planning Committee requested that the state's courthouses be evaluated and standards recommended for statewide application. A pilot study of judicial facilities in 19 areas was initiated. The Crusade Against Crime, a St. Louis citizens' group interested in improving the criminal justice system, recruited volunteers to assist in the pilot study. The survey was still underway at the end of the 1979 fiscal year.

Reforms implemented this year are designed to simplify and revitalize the state's entire judicial system. Due to the cooperative effort of everyone involved, the transition has been smooth and a new era for the Judicial Department of Missouri has begun.

SUPREME COURT OF MISSOURI

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THE SUPREME COURT
OF MISSOURI

JUDGES

J. P. Morgan, Chief Justice

Robert T. Donnelly

Robert E. Seiler

John E. Bardgett

Albert L. Rendlen

Joseph J. Simeone

Warren D. Welliver

COMMISSIONERS

Alden A. Stockard

Robert R. Welborn

Andrew J. Higgins

SUPREME COURT CLERK

Thomas F. Simon

OFFICE OF STATE COURTS ADMINISTRATOR

James M. Parkison

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Supreme Court Directs Court Reform

The Supreme Court constitutionally has authority over all the state's courts. Much of the Court's attention during the 1979 fiscal year was focused on major changes resulting from the new judicial article and criminal code.

The Court's Committee on Pattern Criminal Charges and Instructions prepared jury instructions consistent with the criminal code and pattern forms of informations and indictments for use by prosecuting attorneys. On January 1, 1979, the Supreme Court issued MAI-CR (Missouri Approved Instructions-Criminal) and MACH-CR (Missouri Approved Charges-Criminal). Throughout the year the Committee on Rules drafted changes in court rules required by the new judicial article.

Constitutional Change Expands Court's Criminal Jurisdiction

Revision of Article V, effective January 2, 1979, expanded the Supreme Court's role in certain criminal cases. Article V, Section 3 gives the Court exclusive appellate jurisdiction in all cases where the punishment imposed is death or life imprisonment. If the sentence is death, appeal to the Supreme Court is automatic. Prior to January 1979 the jurisdictional determining factor was the wording of the statute involved rather than the sentence imposed. This situation narrowly defined the Court's jurisdiction.

Article V also gives the Supreme Court exclusive appellate jurisdiction in all cases involving the validity of a United States treaty or statute, the validity of a Missouri statute or constitutional provision, the construction of the state's revenue laws, and the title to any state office. Cases not within the Court's exclusive jurisdiction may be transferred from the Court of Appeals for reasons specified in the Constitution.

Changes in Supreme Court Members

Hon. Warren D. Welliver, formerly a member of the Missouri Senate, assumed office as Supreme Court judge January 9, 1979. He replaced Judge James A. Finch, Jr., who retired December 31, 1978. Judge Finch had served on the court since 1965. Judge Joseph J. Simeone, who was appointed to the Supreme Court May 30, 1978, resigned June 30, 1979. Hon. Andrew J. Higgins, former Supreme Court commissioner, filled the vacancy as of July 1, 1979.

Hon. Norwin Houser retired as Supreme Court commissioner on his 70th birthday October 21, 1978. He held this office for 19 years.

Qualifications and Selection of Judges

Seven judges serve on the Supreme Court. Judges are nominated by a nonpartisan Appellate Judicial Commission and appointed by the governor. Judges must be approved by the voters at the first general election following their first 12 months in office. If retained in office, they serve 12-year terms. Supreme Court judges must be at least 30 years of age and must have been U. S. citizens for at least 15 years and qualified Missouri voters for at least nine years preceding their selection.

In the past, six Supreme Court commissioners assisted Supreme Court judges in hearing and deciding cases. Commissioners, appointed by the Court to four-year terms, were required to have the same qualifications as judges. The position of Supreme Court commissioner will be eliminated when the present commissioners leave office, under a 1970 amendment to Article V. As positions are vacated, additional judgeships are created on the Court of Appeals. On June 30, 1979, three commissioners held office. Commissioners served as special Appeals Court judges in fiscal year 1979.

Clerk's Office Increases Research Support to Court

A central research staff was established in the Office of the Clerk during fiscal year 1979. Attorneys assist the court in processing the large volume of cases filed each year and serve as a liaison between judges and Court committees. Law clerks continue to aid individual judges in writing opinions.

The Supreme Court Clerk and his staff manage the Court's internal functions. The Clerk supervises daily operations, including case docketing, file maintenance and printing. He is responsible for security of the Supreme Court Building and operation of the Supreme Court Library.

As ex officio treasurer of the Missouri Bar, the Clerk collects the annual enrollment fee from Missouri's 12,000+ licensed attorneys. The automated accounting system of the State Courts Administrator's Office assists with this function.

The Clerk serves as secretary to the State Board of Bar Examiners. This responsibility requires the Clerk's Office to conduct the Missouri Bar Examination. Seven hundred and thirty-one examinations were given in the 1979 fiscal year.

The Clerk's Office provides staff support to the Missouri Judicial Conference, a statutory organization of state judges. The Conference recommends judicial legislation to the General Assembly.

State Courts Administrator's Office Assists Courts

A 1970 amendment to Article V of the Missouri Constitution authorized the Supreme Court to appoint a State Courts Administrator to help administer the state's courts. The Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) provides technical assistance in such areas as recordkeeping, microfilming and sound recording. The Statewide Judicial Information System, a data processing system created within the Office, provides statistical data to aid in court management.

The Constitution authorizes the Supreme Court to transfer judges in cases in which a judge has disqualified himself or has been disqualified by one of the parties in the case. OSCA assists the Court by arranging the transfers and preparing the official transfer orders.

OSCA provides support to Supreme Court committees and to the independent Public Defender Commission. The Office accounts for all funds appropriated to the Supreme Court and processes payrolls for state-paid circuit employees.

OSCA assisted the Supreme Court in the transition to a new courts system. In early 1979 OSCA began a statewide personnel classification survey needed for the state's assumption of court clerks' salaries in 1980 and 1981. The Office conducted training sessions for judges on the judicial article and criminal code and began developing new budgetary, accounting and data processing systems to comply with the judicial article's implementing legislation (HB 1634).

Filings Rise in State's Highest Court

Filings in the Supreme Court between July 1, 1978 and June 30, 1979 increased 8% over fiscal year 1978 (945 to 1,021). Appeals rose 9.7% from 155 to 170, the largest number of appeals filed since 1976. Writs, applications to transfer and other original proceedings rose 11.7% (460 to 514). Motions for rehearing dropped from 57 to 42, and other motion activity increased 273 to 295.

Disposition of writs, applications to transfer and other original proceedings increased 4.7% (493 to 516). Appeal dispositions in fiscal year 1979 decreased 6.6% (183 to 171). Overall dispositions in the Supreme Court dropped 1.4% (995 to 981).

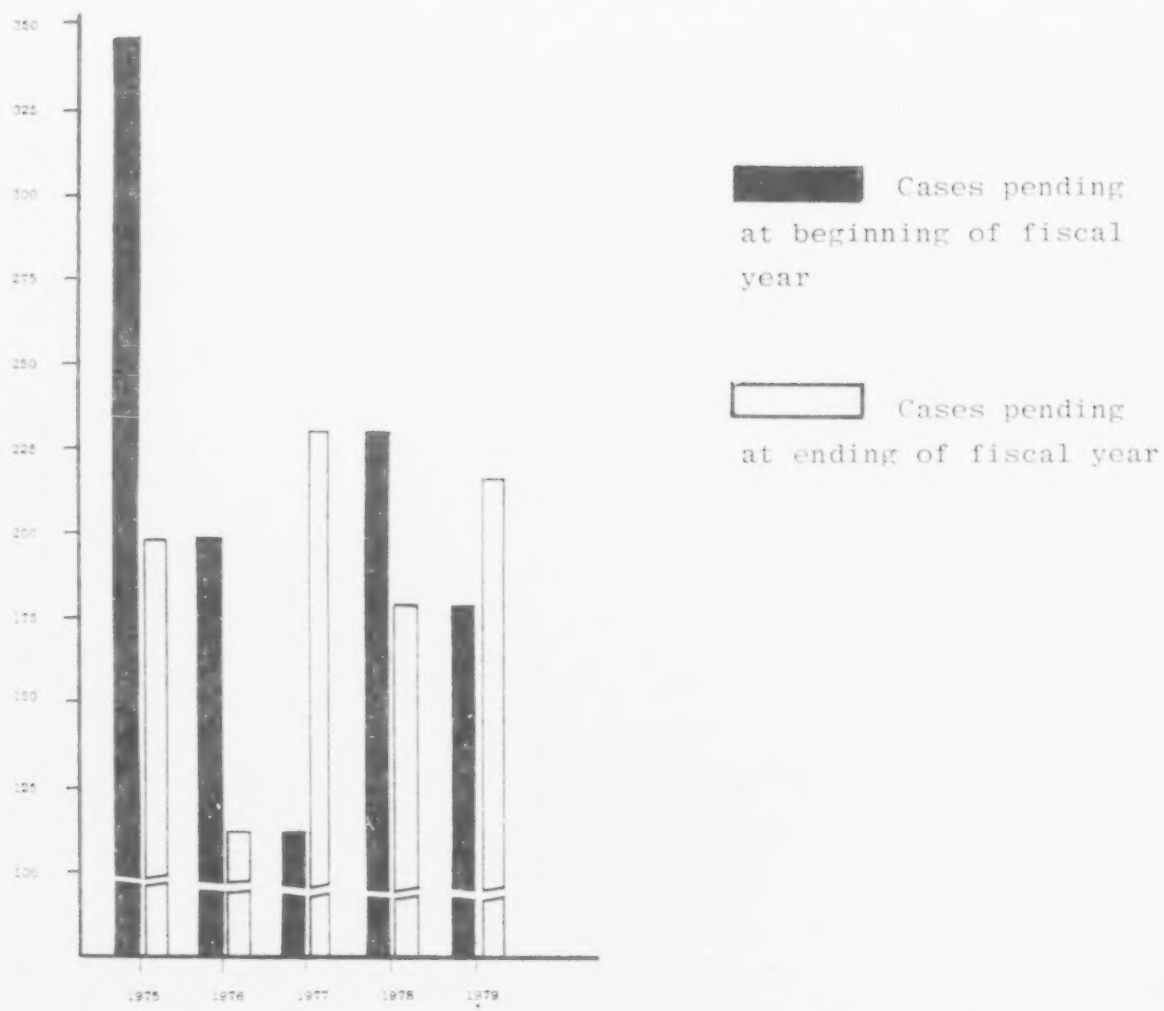
SUPREME COURT

Table 1

CASE ACTIVITY

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY

YEAR	PENDING BEGINNING	FILED	DISPOSED	PENDING END
1975	337	904	1,409	192
1976	192	1,170	1,250	112
1977	112	1,077	960	229
1978	229	945	995	179
1979	179	1,021	981	219



JULY 1, 1978 - JUNE 30, 1979

Table 2
WRITS

	DENIED	SUSTAINED	DISMISSED AND OTHER	TOTAL
Mandamus	42	2	6	50
Prohibition	48	7	2	57
Habeas Corpus	44	6	2	52
Quo Warranto	0	3	0	3
Other	4	0	0	4
TOTAL:	138	18	10	166

% OF TOTAL

Writs.....

Denied	83.1%	Mandamus	30.2%
Sustained	10.8%	Prohibition	34.3%
Dismissed & other	6.1%	Habeas Corpus	31.3%
	100.0%	Quo Warranto	1.8%
		Other	2.4%
			100.0%

Table 3
MOTION ACTIVITY

Motions for Rehearing...	
Denied	45
Sustained	3
TOTAL	48
All Other Motions	
Disposed	246
Total Motion Disposition	294

	% OF TOTAL
Motions for Rehearing	16.3%
All Other Motions	83.7%
	100.0%

Table 4
APPEALS

	CRIMINAL	CIVIL	TOTAL
By Opinion	26	107	133
By Dismissal	4	10	14
By Transfer	8	12	20
By Order	0	4	4
TOTAL:	38	133	171

% OF TOTAL

Appeals.....		Dispositions/Appeals.....	
Criminal	22.2%	By Opinion	77.7%
Civil	77.8%	By Dismissal	8.2%
	100.0%	By Transfer	11.7%
		By Order	2.4%
			100.0%

Table 5
CASE, WRIT AND MOTION ACTIVITY

- TOTALS

	PENDING 6-30-78	FILED	TOTAL	DISPOSED	PENDING 6-30-79
Appeals.....	82	170	252	171	81
Writs, Applications to Transfer and Other Original Proceedings	49	514	563	516	47
Motions for Rehearing	7	42	49	48	1
Other Motion Activity	41	295	336	246	90
	179	1,021	1,200	981	219

Table 6
APPLICATIONS TO TRANSFER AND OTHER ORIGINAL PROCEEDINGS

	DENIED	SUSTAINED	DISMISSED AND OTHER	TOTAL
Applications to Transfer...				
Western District	90	18	1	109
Eastern District	147	39	1	187
Southern District	31	4	0	35
Recommendations or Certificates.....				
Western District	0	2	0	2
Eastern District	0	2	0	2
Southern District	0	0	0	0
Disbarment	0	1	0	1
Reinstatement	1	4	0	5
Retirement	0	0	0	0
Other	2	7	0	9
TOTAL	271	77	2	350

	% OF TOTAL
Applications to Transfer & Other Original Proceedings	
Denied.....	77.4%
Sustained.....	22.0%
Dismissed & Other..	.6%
	100.0%

MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS

MISSOURI

COURT OF APPEALS

EASTERN DISTRICT

JUDGES

Harry L. C. Weier, Chief Judge
Robert O. Snyder
Gerald M. Smith
Albert J. Stephan, Jr.
John J. Kelly, Jr.
Joseph G. Stewart
James R. Reinhard
George F. Gunn, Jr.
Robert E. Crist
Robert G. Dowd
Harold L. Satz
James A. Pudlowski

CLERK OF THE COURT

Robert St. Vrain

WESTERN DISTRICT

JUDGES

Ben Swofford, Chief Judge
Charles Shangler
David J. Dixon
Jack P. Pritchard
Solbert M. Wasserstrom
Ronald Somerville
William E. Turnage
Don Kennedy
Donald B. Clark
Donald Manford

CLERK OF THE COURT

Peggy J. Stevens

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

JUDGES

George M. Flanigan, Chief Judge
Robert E. Hogan
Rex B. Titus
William H. Billings
Almon H. Maus
Douglas W. Greene

CLERK OF THE COURT

William C. Cockrill

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Court of Appeals Adds Judges

Four judges were added to the Court of Appeals in fiscal year 1979. Section 477.191 RSMo. increased the number of judges in the Western District from seven to ten on January 1, 1979. When Judge Norwin Houser retired as Supreme Court commissioner one judge was added in the Southern District under the provisions of §477.152 RSMo. Six judges served on the Southern District bench on June 30, 1979. The number of judges in the Eastern District remained at 12 throughout the year.

Like Supreme Court judges, Appeals Court judges must meet U.S. and Missouri residency requirements and must be at least 30 years old. They must be residents of the appeals district in which they serve. Judges are nominated by the nonpartisan Appellate Judicial Commission and appointed by the governor. If approved by the voters at the first general election after their first 12 months in office, they serve 12-year terms.

Jurisdiction of the Court

Amendments made to the Missouri Constitution in 1970 expanded the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeals to include all appellate cases not within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The Court of Appeals also has original jurisdiction over remedial writs.

The Court of Appeals is divided by statute into three districts. The Eastern District sits in St. Louis, the Western District sits in Kansas City and the Southern District holds sessions in both Springfield and Poplar Bluff.

Recordkeeping System Aids Court Management

Installation of the Appellate Recordkeeping System was begun in the Eastern District in fiscal year 1979. The system is already operational in the Western District and implementation in the Southern District is scheduled for fiscal year 1980. A part of the automated Statewide Judicial Information System (SWJIS), the Appellate Recordkeeping System provides weekly reports showing case backlogs and a variety of daily, weekly and monthly indexes and statistical reports. The system allows judges to identify and eliminate potential delays in the judicial process.

Appellate Dispositions Increase

Appeals disposed in fiscal year 1979 rose slightly over fiscal year 1978, while filings declined at the same rate.

Appeals disposed were up 3.7% (1,761 to 1,827), and appeals filed decreased 4.2% (1,895 to 1,816).

In the Western District appeals filings were up 3.3% (581 to 601) while dispositions showed the impact of judges added January 1, 1979. Appeals disposed rose 10.5% (563 to 629). Eastern District filings decreased 5.6% (977 to 923) and judges increased dispositions 1.4% (895 to 908). Filings of appeals were down 1.5% in the Southern District (337 to 292) and dispositions were down 4.5% (303 to 290).

The proportion of civil appeals to criminal appeals increased during the year. Civil appeals were 68.2% of the total cases pending on June 30, 1979, compared to 63.9% of cases pending at the end of fiscal year 1978.

Writ activity in the Court of Appeals increased 11.9% over fiscal year 1978 (360 to 403). The court disposed 9% more writs in fiscal year 1979 than in the prior year (357 to 389).

COURT OF APPEALS

Table 7

CASE ACTIVITY

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY

YEAR	PENDING BEGINNING	FILED	DISPOSED	PENDING END
1975	1,507	1,552	1,145	1,815
1976	1,815	1,805	1,617	2,003
1977	2,003	1,797	1,907	1,919
1978	1,919	1,895	1,761	2,053*
1979	2,098**	1,816	1,827	2,092***

* An imbalance exists between the number of cases reported pending at the beginning and at the end of each of these years, due to a continued refinement of the recordkeeping procedures in the Eastern District.

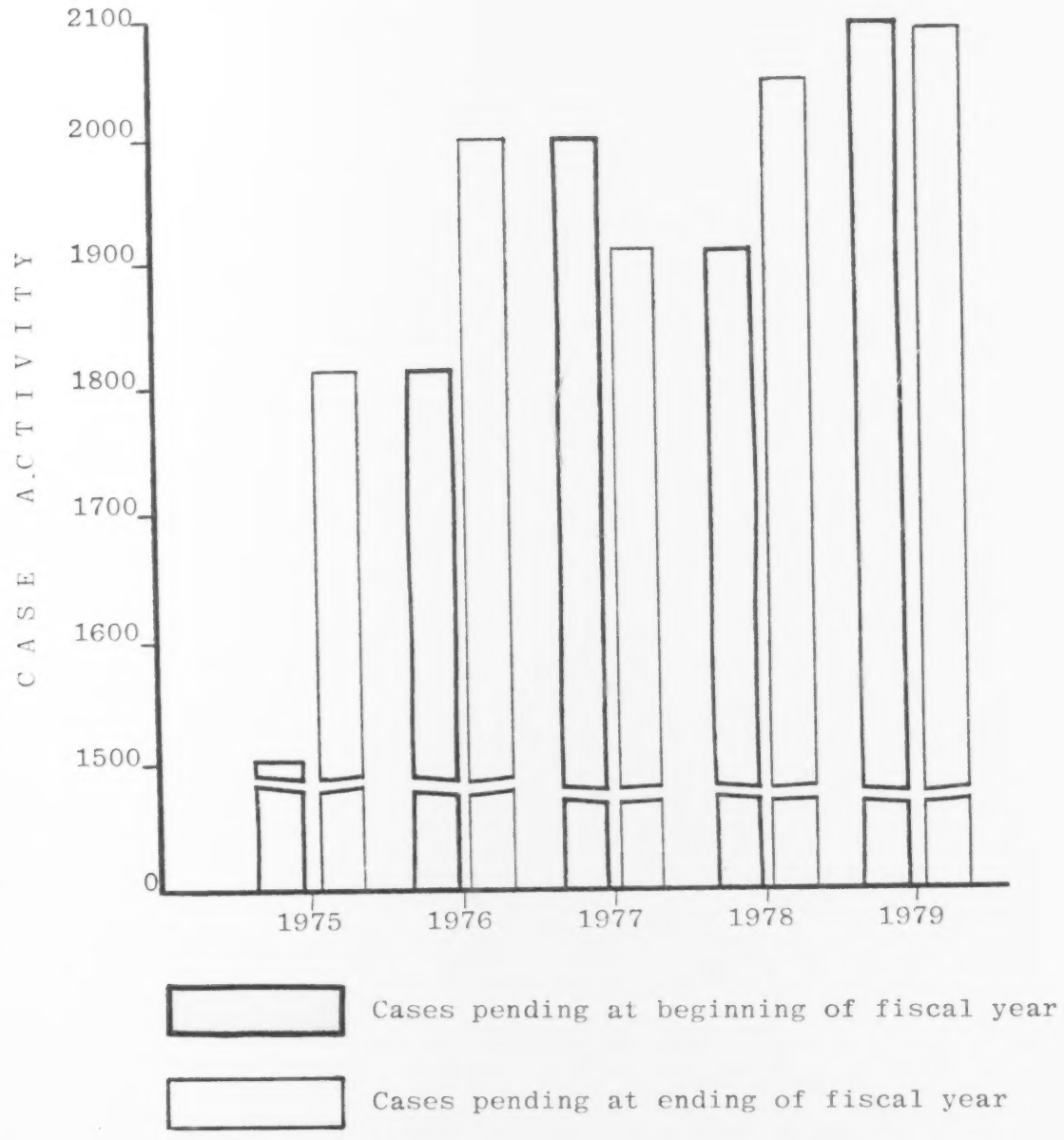
** The number pending at the beginning of 1979 differs from the number pending at the end of 1978 as the Western District has been refining its recordkeeping procedures.

*** The number of cases pending at the end of 1979 does not balance because a single opinion may dispose of several individual cases.

COURT OF APPEALS

CASE ACTIVITY

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY



MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS

CASE ACTIVITY

Table 8
CASES PENDING - JUNE 30, 1978

	CRIMINAL	CIVIL	TOTAL
Western District.....	173	497	670
Eastern District.....	448	608	1,056
Southern District....	137	235	372
	758	1,340	2,098

% of TOTAL	
Criminal....	36.1%
Civil.....	63.9%
	100.0%

Table 9
NEW APPEALS FILED

	CRIMINAL	CIVIL	TOTAL
Western District.....	115	486	601
Eastern District.....	280	643	923
Southern District....	89	203	292
	484	1,332	1,816

% of TOTAL	
Criminal....	26.7%
Civil.....	73.3%
	100.0%

Table 10
APPEAL DISPOSITIONS

	CRIMINAL	CIVIL	TOTAL
Western District.....			
By Opinion	107	256	363
By Dismissal	35	219	254
By Consolidation	0	6	6
By Transfer	1	5	6
	143	486	629
Eastern District.....			
By Opinion	241	243	484
By Dismissal	72	311	383
By Consolidation	4	32	36
By Transfer	4	1	5
	321	587	908
Southern District.....			
By Opinion	70	95	165
By Dismissal	22	100	122
By Consolidation	0	0	0
By Transfer	1	2	3
	93	197	290
	557	1,270	1,827

% of TOTAL

Criminal.....		Civil.....	
Western	7.9%	Western	26.6%
Eastern	17.5%	Eastern	32.1%
Southern	5.1%	Southern	10.8%
TOTAL:	30.5%	TOTAL:	69.5%

Table 11
CASES PENDING - JUNE 30, 1979

	CRIMINAL	CIVIL	TOTAL
Western District.....	145	502	647
Eastern District.....	387	684	1,071
Southern District....	133	241	372
	665	1,427	2,092

	% of TOTAL
Criminal....	31.8%
Civil.....	68.2%
	100.0%

Table 12
WRIT ACTIVITY

	WESTERN	EASTERN	SOUTHERN	TOTAL
WRITS PENDING - June 30, 1978...	0	40	5	45*
PETITIONS FOR WRITS FILED				
Habeas Corpus...	44	31	5	80
Mandamus.....	42	68	18	128
Prohibition.....	57	112	23	192
Certiorari.....	0	2	0	2
Quo Warranto....	1	0	0	1
	144	213	46	403

*The number of writs pending on June 30, 1978 differs from the amount reported last year due to refinement of recordkeeping procedures in the Western district.

Table 13
WRIT DISPOSITIONS

	WESTERN	EASTERN	SOUTHERN	TOTAL
Petition Denied...	11	166	43	220
Final Disposition by order.....	118	27	4	149
Final Disposition by opinion.....	1	17	2	20
TOTALS:	130	210	49	389
TOTAL PENDING June 30, 1979.....	13	43	2	58

	% of TOTAL
PETITIONS FOR WRITS FILED	
Habeas Corpus.....	19.9%
Mandamus.....	31.8%
Prohibition.....	47.6%
Certiorari.....	.5%
Quo Warranto.....	.2%
	100.0%
Western.....	35.7%
Eastern.....	52.9%
Southern....	11.4%
	100.0%
WRIT DISPOSITIONS	
Petition Denied...	55.6%
Final Disposition by order.....	38.3%
Final Disposition by opinion.....	5.1%
	100.0%
Western.....	33.4%
Eastern.....	54.0%
Southern....	12.6%
	100.0%

CIRCUIT COURTS

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CIRCUIT COURTS

CIRCUIT	CIRCUIT JUDGES	ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGES
1	1	3
2	1	3
3	1	4
4	1	5
5	4	4
6	1	3
7	4	3
8	1	2
9	1	3
10	1	3
11	4	4
12	1	3
13	3	3
14	1	2
15	1	4
16	19	8
17	2	4
18	1	3
19	2	2
20	2	5
21	20	13
22	24	7
23	4	2
24	2	6
25	2	6
26	2	5
27	1	3
28	1	4
29	3	2
30	1	5
31	5	3
32	2	3
33	1	3
34	1	3
35	1	4
36	1	3
37	1	4
38	1	5
39	1	3
40	1	3
41	1	2
42	2	5
43	1	4
TOTAL:	131	169

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Local Court Structure Altered in 1979

All civil and criminal cases begin in the circuit court. Creation of a single trial court was a major thrust of judicial reform effective January 2, 1979. Constitutional changes and legislation (HB 1634) reorganized the former magistrate and probate courts, municipal courts, the St. Louis Court of Criminal Correction and other local courts into divisions of the circuit court.

Circuit judges include those who were circuit judges before January 2, probate judges in counties of more than 65,000 population, and judges of the former St. Louis Court of Criminal Correction. Ten probate judges and two judges of the Court of Criminal Correction became circuit judges January 2. In addition, §478.715 RSMo. authorized a second circuit judge in the 42nd Circuit as of January 2, 1979, bringing the total number of circuit judges to 131.

Circuit judges have jurisdiction over "all cases and matters, civil and criminal" (Missouri Constitution, Article V, Section 14). In each circuit a presiding judge is selected by circuit and associate circuit judges to exercise administrative authority over all court personnel.

Probate judges in counties with less than 65,000 population and magistrates became associate circuit judges on January 2nd. Each county has at least one associate circuit judge.

Associate circuit judges hear within their own counties all matters formerly heard by magistrates and probate judges. Under the new legislation, associate circuit judges can hear any matter within the jurisdiction of the circuit court if assigned to do so by the presiding judge or by local court rule. HB 1634 also allows the presiding judge to assign associate circuit judges to hear cases within the circuit but outside their county of residence.

Each circuit has a probate division and a juvenile division. In St. Louis City, St. Louis County and Jackson County a circuit judge is assigned full time to the juvenile division. Judges in several circuits handle probate matters full time. Otherwise probate and juvenile matters are handled by judges who hear other types of cases also.

Small claims cases are handled by associate circuit judges under special procedures outlined in Chapter 482 RSMo. When a judge is hearing small claims cases, the court is known as "small claims court".

Municipalities with less than 400,000 population may establish municipal divisions to hear ordinance violations, or they may request that these cases be handled through the

circuit court's associate circuit division. Municipalities with more than 400,000 population must establish municipal divisions. Municipal judges may hear only municipal ordinance cases. Missouri has 392 municipal judges.

Appeals from circuit courts are made to the Court of Appeals unless the case lies within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The right of trial de novo remains in those cases which prior to 1979 were magistrate matters, unless the case is certified and heard on the record. A trial de novo is a new trial of the issues by the circuit court.

Qualifications and Selection of Judges

Circuit judges must be U.S. citizens at least 10 years and Missouri voters at least three years prior to their selection. They must be at least 30 years old, residents of the circuit for one year and licensed to practice law in Missouri.

Associate circuit judges are required to be qualified voters of Missouri, residents of the county and licensed to practice law in Missouri. The minimum age requirement is 25 years. Mandatory retirement age for circuit and associate circuit judges is 70.

Municipal judges must be between 21 and 75 years of age and residents of Missouri. The judge for a municipality with a population of more than 7,500 must be an attorney unless he served as municipal judge for the same municipality for three years prior to January 2, 1979. Judges for municipalities with less than 7,500 population who are not attorneys must satisfactorily complete a course of instruction prescribed by the Supreme Court. One hundred ninety-three non-lawyer judges were certified in fiscal year 1979.

Circuit and associate circuit judges are elected on a partisan basis except in areas covered by Missouri's nonpartisan selection plan - the counties of Platte, Clay, Jackson, St. Louis and the City of St. Louis. Judges in those areas are nominated by nonpartisan circuit judicial commissions and appointed by the governor. Circuit judges serve six-year terms, and associate circuit judges serve four years.

Municipal judges are elected or appointed as dictated by local charter or ordinance. Their terms are set by charter or ordinance but must be at least two years.

Courts Adopt New Procedures

Between 1974 and 1977 circuit clerks adopted a uniform system for maintaining court records. This circuit court recordkeeping system complies with Administrative Rule 4, which states the Supreme Court's requirements for local court records.

In 1977 the Supreme Court appointed a Magistrate Court Records Committee to design a similar system for magistrate records. The committee's recommendations were incorporated into Administrative Rule 4 in December 1978. That month the system was presented to 600 magistrate judges and clerks in a series of 15 regional meetings. With the aid of a federal grant to purchase supplies, transition to the new system was underway in associate circuit divisions during the first six months of 1979.

Use of sound recorders as an alternative to traditional court reporting is increasing in the state's courts. Authority for electronic recording in the courts was granted by legislation which took effect in 1976. By June 30, 1979, more than 160 sound recorders were in use in the state and only one county did not have a recording device in at least one of its courts. From December 1978 to the end of June 1979, a total of 616 judges and clerks attended sessions which provided training in operating sound recorders.

Circuit Caseload Analysis

All civil and criminal cases are within the jurisdiction of the reorganized circuit court mandated by the new judicial article. Circuit statistics for fiscal year 1979 reported in Table 15 include matters filed in associate circuit and probate divisions. Data on municipal ordinance cases are not available for the 1979 fiscal year.

More than 600,000 matters were filed in the circuit courts during the year. Traffic cases accounted for half this total (302,868 of 605,397 cases). Civil cases were 30.7% of the total (185,857); criminal, 14.4% (86,943); juvenile, 2.9% (17,293); and probate matters, 2.0% (12,436).

If traffic and probate matters are excluded from the total, 64.1% of the remaining 290,093 cases were civil, 30.0% were criminal and 5.9% were juvenile cases.

Dispositions were high in the circuit courts. Ninety-one percent of all matters filed during the fiscal year were disposed (548,606 of 605,397). Disposition rates by category were: civil, 87.7% (162,915 of 185,857); criminal, 85.2% (74,067 of 86,943); juvenile, 93.1% (16,102 of 17,293); traffic, 94.0% (284,771 of 302,868); and probate, 86.5% (10,751 of 12,436).

Of the 162,915 civil cases disposed, 6.8% (11,124) were small claims cases handled under the provisions of Chapter 482 RSMo., and 45.5% (74,132) were processed as associate circuit matters under provisions outlined in Chapter 517 RSMo. The remaining 47.7% (77,659) were processed as circuit matters.

Misdemeanors at the associate circuit level accounted for 46.8% of criminal cases disposed (34,679 of 74,067). Felonies disposed in associate circuit divisions were 29.8% of the total (22,064 of 74,067). Felony dispositions at the associate circuit level consist of dismissals, bind-overs, and trials or acceptance of pleas to reduced charges. Criminal cases at the circuit level (felonies, misdemeanors, felonies reduced to misdemeanors, and municipal appeals) were 23.4% of the total (17,324 of 74,067).

It should be noted that the total number of criminal cases is inflated because any felony matter processed at the associate division level and subsequently bound over to the circuit level for trial is counted twice. This method of counting is a vestige of the old court system. As reporting and recordkeeping systems are refined and improved, this problem will be corrected.

Data for criminal and civil cases handled by circuit judges are generated by the automated Statewide Judicial Information System. The 16th, 21st and 22nd Circuits supply data from local automated systems. The 13th Circuit furnishes part of its data from a local automated system and the remainder is generated by the statewide system.

Information for the associate circuit, probate and juvenile divisions is collected manually. Fiscal year 1979 is the first full year for which statistics are available for associate circuit divisions. The reporting system is still not error-free but is expected to improve as more reliability is placed on the data generated.

Presiding Judges Utilize Assignment Authority

Presiding judges are using their authority under HB 1634 to assign circuit cases to associate circuit judges. Between January 2, 1979, and June 30, 1979, associate circuit judges disposed 8,210 cases which would have been outside their jurisdiction without the assignment provisions of the law.

A 1976 statute previously allowed circuit judges to assign cases to magistrates and probate judges as acting circuit judges, but only certain types of cases were assigned. Data available for assignments during the six months prior to the effective date of HB 1634 are not strictly comparable

to January-June data. During the earlier period, clerks reported manually the number of circuit cases assigned to magistrates and probate judges. In 1979 the Statewide Judicial Information System (SWJIS) began to provide statistics on circuit cases disposed by associate circuit judges. During July-December 1978, 6,923 circuit cases were assigned to magistrates and probate judges as acting circuit judges.

The assignment provisions of HB 1634 are being used in more circuits than the previous provisions for assigning judges as acting circuit judges. In the January-June period, only one circuit did not utilize an associate circuit judge to hear some circuit cases. In the previous six months, 19 circuits did not assign any cases to magistrates or probate judges.

Figures for the January-June 1979 period which appear in Table 16 may be understated. Only 52.7% of the cases reported to SWJIS indicated the type of judge. It is assumed that most cases without judge information were heard by circuit judges due to past practice of indicating the judge assigned only in cases where someone other than the resident circuit judge heard the case.

SUMMARY STATISTICS

Table 14

CIRCUIT COURTS

FILED			DISPOSED		
CIVIL....					
Circuit	88,478	47.6%	Circuit	77,659	47.7%
Associate Circuit	84,017	45.2%	Associate Circuit	74,132	45.5%
Small Claims	13,362	7.2%	Small Claims	11,124	6.8%
	185,857	100.0%		162,915	100.0%
CRIMINAL....					
Circuit	18,503	21.3%	Circuit	17,324	23.4%
Associate Circuit	68,440	78.7%	Associate Circuit	56,743	76.6%
	86,943	100.0%		74,067	100.0%

FILINGS TOTAL

Civil	185,857		30.7%
Criminal	86,943		14.4%
Juvenile	17,293		2.9%
		290,093	
Traffic	302,868		50.0%
Probate	12,436		2.0%
		315,304	
		605,397	100.0%

DISPOSITIONS TOTAL

Civil	162,915		29.7%
Criminal	74,067		13.5%
Juvenile	16,102		2.9%
		253,084	
Traffic	284,771		51.9%
Probate	10,751		2.0%
		295,522	
		548,606	100.0%

CIRCUIT COURTS

Table 15

CASE STATISTICS: FY 1979

CIRCUIT	CIVIL – CIRCUIT		CIVIL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT		CIVIL – SMALL CLAIMS		CIVIL – TOTAL		JUVENILE		CRIMINAL – CIRCUIT		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – FELONY		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – MISDEMEANOR		CRIMINAL – TOTAL		ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – TRAFFIC		PROBATE – DECEDENT'S ESTATE W/LETTER		PROBATE – MINOR&IN' ESTATES W/LETTER	
	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D
#1																								
Clark	162	137	89	91	23	18	274	246	24	8	18	14	46	43	125	119	189	176	894	879	32	31	12	5
Schuyler	53	47	48	48	34	16	135	111	13	4	23	21	22	21	43	27	88	69	413	393	11	7	4	1
Scotland	61	62	37	26	26	19	124	107	10	7	6	11	12	8	65	36	83	55	732	695	29	29	5	3
TOTAL	276	246	174	165	83	53	533	464	47	19	47	46	80	72	233	182	360	300	2039	1967	72	67	21	9
#2																								
Adair	289	330	147	139	86	75	522	544	91	74	124	144	68	93	154	95	346	332	1354	1312	27	8	12	5
Knox	48	67	42	40	30	16	120	123	16	57	8	8	28	21	75	63	111	92	323	319	29	19	6	3
Lewis	124	71	33	34	14	17	171	122	28	6	36	15	59	46	139	121	234	182	1159	1026	41	39	6	3
TOTAL	461	468	222	213	130	108	813	789	135	137	168	167	155	160	368	279	691	606	2836	2657	79	58	19	6
#3																								
Grundy	187	192	66	61	38	28	291	281	108	100	64	58	43	41	140	126	247	225	1021	757	41	22	5	9
Harrison	99	94	57	47	35	32	191	173	53	58	36	36	59	55	643	642	738	733	1656	1586	25	50	13	4
Mercer	59	58	14	11	18	19	91	88	18	20	13	17	19	13	41	42	73	72	182	207	14	29	8	3
Putnam	66	49	11	15	22	20	99	84	20	20	34	45	29	27	69	77	132	149	247	242	16	24	5	4
TOTAL	411	393	148	134	113	99	672	626	199	198	147	156	150	136	893	887	1190	1179	3106	2792	96	125	31	20
#4																								
Atchison	83	91	100	39	15	14	198	144	10	8	28	27	44	71	136	114	208	212	3471	3744	26	31	7	7
Gentry	62	51	47	38	34	30	143	119	7	7	7	2	2	2	26	24	35	28	312	291	34	45	5	4
Holt	65	58	32	16	11	7	108	81	11	10	22	17	39	19	114	113	175	149	1844	1835	29	49	6	5
Nodaway	180	170	56	75	18	16	254	261	37	34	59	71	26	26	61	33	146	130	317	282	67	72	15	16
Worth	31	26	5	2	17	10	53	38	8	5	6	13	5	2	27	23	38	38	108	114	12	9	9	4
TOTAL	421	396	240	170	95	77	756	643	73	64	122	130	116	120	364	307	602	557	6052	6266	168	206	42	36

Continued

CIRCUIT	CIVIL – CIRCUIT		CIVIL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT		CIVIL – SMALL CLAIMS		CIVIL – TOTAL		JUVENILE		CRIMINAL – CIRCUIT		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – FELONY		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – MISDEMEANOR		CRIMINAL – TOTAL		ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – TRAFFIC		PROBATE – DECEDENT'S ESTATE W/LETTER		PROBATE – MINOR&INC ESTATES W/LETTER	
	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D
#5																								
Andrew	135	108	85	46	40	42	260	196	18	41	35	26	37	34	174	119	246	179	1886	1877	22	22	5	4
Buchanan	1704	1441	2162	1824	366	352	4232	3617	369	440	300	223	268	248	707	582	1275	1053	7783	7431	141	143	27	48
Clinton	186	203	115	114	78	77	379	394	34	26	49	35	158	130	179	147	386	312	1127	1168	27	41	10	10
TOTAL:	2025	1752	2362	1984	484	471	1871	4207	421	507	384	284	463	412	1060	848	1907	1544	10796	10476	190	206	42	62
#6																								
Platte	911	720	624	470	102	32	1637	1222	301	292	332	260	231	183	168	143	731	586	6088	5570	47	37	24	14
TOTAL:	911	720	624	470	102	32	1637	1222	301	292	332	260	231	183	168	143	731	586	6088	5570	47	37	24	14
#7																								
Clay	2381	2154	2634	2369	287	229	5302	4752	324	338	747	611	836	791	501	1284	2084	2686	6375	6311	136	146	51	63
TOTAL:	2381	2154	2634	2369	287	229	5302	4752	324	338	747	611	836	791	501	1284	2084	2686	6375	6311	136	146	51	63
#8																								
Carroll	147	98	91	67	12	7	250	172	34	12	49	43	44	34	148	111	241	188	1480	1379	68	46	19	6
Ray	259	251	151	100	71	62	481	413	54	41	96	99	146	119	201	168	443	386	1203	1292	28	36	19	10
TOTAL:	406	349	242	167	83	69	731	585	88	53	145	142	190	153	349	279	684	574	2683	2671	96	82	38	16
#9																								
Chariton	81	55	122	168	43	51	246	274	31	34	26	24	28	28	183	168	237	220	837	807	64	45	11	6
Linn	195	154	190	106	30	9	415	269	42	53	49	30	66	43	122	76	237	158	3034	2991	53	59	15	6
Sullivan	79	59	133	115	3	1	215	175	15	27	17	20	41	47	124	87	182	154	1411	1425	29	24	5	2
TOTAL:	355	268	445	389	76	61	876	718	88	114	92	83	135	118	429	331	656	532	5282	5223	146	128	31	14

Continued

CIRCUIT	CIVIL – CIRCUIT		CIVIL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT		CIVIL – SMALL CLAIMS		CIVIL – TOTAL		JUVENILE		CRIMINAL – CIRCUIT		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – FELONY		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – MISDEMEANOR		CRIMINAL – TOTAL		ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – TRAFFIC		PROBATE – DECEDENT'S ESTATE W/LETTER		PROBATE – MINOR & IN ESTATES W/LETTER	
	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D
#10																								
Marion	343	352	251	238	43	39	637	629	312	345	65	48	118	92	76	62	259	202	810	809	46	48	14	4
Monroe	88	68	59	70	52	31	199	169	81	82	21	17	38	28	73	60	132	105	808	788	37	34	4	9
Ralls	72	82	80	77	36	47	188	206	105	112	8	11	16	24	102	109	126	144	692	715	26	31	10	5
TOTAL:	503	502	390	385	131	117	1024	1004	498	539	94	76	172	144	251	231	517	451	2321	2312	109	113	28	18
#11																								
Lincoln	314	221	211	82	10	6	535	309	40	30	114	71	89	36	385	204	598	311	2568	2165	28	16	11	12
Pike	206	159	76	60	1	1	283	220	42	31	55	53	57	53	36	32	148	138	1139	–	63	25	15	25
St. Charles	1970	1378	1370	1096	283	313	3629	2787	217	194	190	179	425	350	371	289	996	818	9981	10001	109	123	59	45
TOTAL:	2490	1758	1657	1238	294	320	4447	3316	299	255	368	303	581	439	792	525	1741	1267	13688	12226	251	164	85	82
#12																								
Audrain	378	321	196	131	70	57	644	509	87	73	176	147	82	128	293	142	561	417	1278	1331	67	57	19	15
Montgomery	101	78	73	50	29	19	203	147	36	34	45	54	23	36	160	125	230	215	1305	1263	18	27	11	9
Warren	193	160	93	79	51	37	337	276	36	34	110	75	80	65	136	78	326	218	2421	2370	10	34	10	8
TOTAL:	672	559	362	260	150	113	1189	932	159	141	331	276	187	229	589	345	1107	850	5004	4964	155	118	40	32
#13																								
Boone	1204	1254	1524	1667	378	501	3106	3422	282	253	544	421	195	199	1583	1790	2322	2410	5086	4368	110	145	51	43
Callaway	420	240	418	354	139	116	977	710	80	35	154	115	202	201	504	425	860	741	1474	4041	68	52	30	13
TOTAL:	1624	1494	1942	2021	517	617	4083	4132	362	288	698	536	397	400	2087	2215	3182	3151	9560	8409	178	197	81	56
#14																								
Howard	96	78	221	191	54	55	371	324	31	31	49	46	50	47	83	76	182	169	472	474	29	56	14	12
Randolph	385	364	269	346	213	224	867	934	168	168	109	115	137	129	447	397	693	641	3369	3342	79	58	31	60
TOTAL:	481	442	490	537	267	279	1238	1258	199	199	158	161	187	176	530	473	875	810	3841	3816	108	114	45	72

Continued

CIRCUIT	CIVIL – CIRCUIT		CIVIL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT		CIVIL – SMALL CLAIMS		CIVIL – TOTAL		JUVENILE		CRIMINAL – CIRCUIT		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – FELONY		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – MISDEMEANOR		CRIMINAL – TOTAL		ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – TRAFFIC		PROBATE – DECEDENT'S ESTATE W/LETTER		PROBATE – MINOR&INC ESTATES W/LETTER	
	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D
#15																								
Lafayette	269	212	270	196	40	32	579	440	41	37	49	38	48	34	57	53	154	125	4505	8200	73	68	26	21
Saline	324	234	342	422	104	114	770	770	44	34	101	78	307	213	221	193	629	484	3136	3076	71	85	21	18
TOTAL:	593	446	612	618	144	146	1349	1210	85	71	150	116	355	247	278	246	783	609	7641	11276	144	153	47	39
#16																								
Jackson	15185	14607	18962	17853	2192	1318	36039	33778	3658	3686	3035	2830	4232	3626	899	878	8166	7334	16019	15739	926	767	361	218
TOTAL:	15185	14607	18962	17853	2192	1318	36039	33778	3658	3686	3035	2830	4232	3626	899	878	8166	7334	16019	15739	926	767	361	218
#17																								
Cass	681	634	508	324	112	53	1301	1011	35	893	109	91	141	114	159	112	409	317	2743	2392	70	47	18	15
Johnson	492	488	221	184	137	125	850	797	65	93	55	63	158	79	314	177	527	319	1996	1815	57	53	10	24
TOTAL:	1173	1122	729	508	249	178	2151	1808	100	986	164	154	299	193	473	289	936	636	4739	4177	127	100	28	39
#18																								
Cooper	136	120	252	157	54	41	442	318	29	26	58	67	46	38	136	53	240	158	4183	3917	39	61	19	15
Pettis	534	500	640	533	74	55	1248	1088	212	196	101	137	149	128	245	152	495	417	1964	1799	82	104	33	26
TOTAL:	670	620	892	690	128	96	1690	1406	241	222	159	204	195	166	381	205	735	575	6147	5716	121	165	52	41
#19																								
Cole	1015	746	823	699	253	217	2091	1662	317	395	191	171	169	243	800	536	1160	950	3371	3303	94	73	27	26
TOTAL:	1015	746	823	699	253	217	2091	1662	317	395	191	171	169	243	800	536	1160	950	3371	3303	94	73	27	26

Continued

CIRCUIT	CIVIL – CIRCUIT		CIVIL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT		CIVIL – SMALL CLAIMS		CIVIL – TOTAL		JUVENILE		CRIMINAL – CIRCUIT		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – FELONY		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – MISDEMEANOR		CRIMINAL – TOTAL		ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – TRAFFIC		PROBATE – DECEDENT'S ESTATE W/LETTER		PROBATE – MINOR&INC ESTATES W/LETTER	
	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D
#20																								
Franklin	833	723	755	644	255	181	1843	1548	136	99	230	200	316	176	650	775	1196	1151	8149	7063	156	142	48	28
Gasconade	115	108	56	47	71	69	242	224	32	30	57	43	63	40	117	83	237	166	554	501	36	40	6	11
Osage	56	51	72	51	43	19	171	121	16	8	25	22	29	14	252	186	306	222	391	282	13	3	2	2
TOTAL:	1004	882	883	742	369	269	2256	1893	184	137	312	265	408	230	1019	1044	1739	1539	9094	7846	205	185	56	41
#21																								
St. Louis	15868	12897	23203	18622	1987	1749	41058	33268	2921	2674	2229	2119	2685	2510	3079	3521	7993	8150	43207	38353	1487	1400	462	506
TOTAL:	15868	12897	23203	18622	1987	1749	41058	33268	2921	2674	2229	2119	2685	2510	3079	3521	7993	8150	43207	38353	1487	1400	462	506
#22																								
St. Louis City	16691	15459	10311	10154	413	441	27415	26054	2673	1572	3694	3826	6740	4622	6371	4493	16805	12941	8213	8287	987	1069	140	181
TOTAL:	16691	15459	10311	10154	413	441	27415	26054	2673	1572	3694	3826	6740	4622	6371	4493	16805	12941	8213	8287	987	1069	140	181
#23																								
Jefferson	1892	1408	1897	1500	331	241	4120	3149	518	419	191	142	606	389	646	426	1443	957	8269	7317	154	104	60	42
TOTAL:	1892	1408	1897	1500	331	241	4120	3149	518	419	191	142	606	389	646	426	1443	957	8269	7317	154	104	60	42
#24																								
Madison	142	131	61	49	130	143	333	323	55	50	29	29	41	33	210	146	280	208	2657	2473	22	29	3	1
Perry	138	156	73	66	55	44	266	266	64	60	29	33	56	42	278	241	363	316	3030	2716	53	55	4	11
St. Francois	634	620	617	777	34	16	1285	1413	256	253	107	118	173	109	473	263	753	490	1540	1451	87	117	21	12
Ste. Genevieve	128	121	126	115	48	31	302	267	50	46	36	25	71	75	96	89	203	189	1569	1633	31	14	14	8
Washington	294	189	141	113	78	72	423	374	57	58	34	36	91	82	89	62	214	180	599	584	21	21	4	4
TOTAL:	1246	1217	1018	1120	345	306	2609	2643	482	467	235	241	432	341	1146	801	1813	1383	9395	8857	214	236	46	36

Continued

CIRCUIT	CIVIL - CIRCUIT		CIVIL - ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT		CIVIL - SMALL CLAIMS		CIVIL - TOTAL		JUVENILE		CRIMINAL - CIRCUIT		CRIMINAL - ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT - FELONY		CRIMINAL - ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT - MISDEMEANOR		CRIMINAL - TOTAL		ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT - TRAFFIC		PROBATE - DECEDENT'S ESTATE W/LETTER		PROBATE - MINOR&INC ESTATES W/LETTER	
	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D
#25																								
Maries	81	67	24	36	19	26	124	129	12	4	18	6	58	40	119	121	195	167	1132	947	18	10	5	1
Phelps	446	346	199	157	159	139	804	642	63	20	80	101	294	143	1114	668	1488	912	9149	7387	51	64	13	9
Pulaski	596	688	105	58	68	49	769	795	74	33	52	52	97	48	156	86	305	186	3559	2746	40	35	15	7
Texas	241	233	80	49	60	66	381	348	34	64	41	33	97	32	215	117	353	182	1541	1515	63	18	10	5
TOTAL:	1364	1334	408	300	306	280	2078	1914	183	121	191	192	546	263	1604	992	2341	1447	15381	12595	172	127	43	22
#26																								
Camden	326	244	232	59	-	-	558	303	13	4	63	71	101	24	245	44	409	139	936	575	51	59	8	3
Miller	189	153	149	149	83	62	421	364	16	11	147	233	119	76	391	342	657	651	681	665	35	37	12	10
Moniteau	90	79	53	43	47	34	190	156	10	9	62	107	37	38	78	62	177	207	663	621	29	32	11	8
Morgan	157	124	62	27	44	37	263	188	13	18	44	52	42	34	155	131	241	217	828	769	26	20	4	1
Laclede	456	379	302	290	29	10	787	679	65	48	41	48	164	182	467	476	672	706	5852	5347	45	47	21	6
TOTAL:	1218	979	798	568	203	143	2219	1690	117	90	357	511	463	354	1336	1055	2156	1920	8960	7977	186	195	56	28
#27																								
Bates	209	157	130	90	91	71	430	318	34	48	30	40	51	31	158	113	239	184	1709	1437	46	31	14	10
Henry	399	372	164	226	58	50	621	648	71	71	166	152	124	152	170	142	460	446	2964	2895	89	64	38	33
St. Clair	172	135	25	17	18	13	215	165	25	25	47	37	80	40	135	56	262	133	998	752	22	21	11	8
TOTAL:	780	664	319	333	167	134	1266	1131	130	144	243	229	255	223	463	311	961	763	5662	5084	157	116	63	51
#28																								
Barton	101	84	73	63	16	6	190	153	68	68	72	49	33	32	104	95	209	176	1314	1154	22	18	14	1
Cedar	145	136	69	73	23	26	237	235	62	25	60	73	60	72	329	297	449	442	646	597	42	21	16	5
Dade	56	52	47	39	26	22	129	113	33	27	36	28	51	41	244	259	331	328	386	411	20	20	4	8
Vernon	342	266	178	91	62	45	582	402	211	205	153	161	147	95	152	115	452	371	1931	1788	55	40	23	14
TOTAL:	644	538	367	266	127	99	1138	903	374	325	321	311	291	240	829	766	1441	1317	4277	3950	139	99	57	28

Continued

CIRCUIT	CIVIL – CIRCUIT		CIVIL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT		CIVIL – SMALL CLAIMS		CIVIL – TOTAL		JUVENILE		CRIMINAL – CIRCUIT		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – FELONY		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – MISDEMEANOR		CRIMINAL – TOTAL		ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – TRAFFIC		PROBATE – DECEDENT'S ESTATE W/LETTER		PROBATE – MINOR&INC ESTATES W/LETTER	
	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D
#29																								
Jasper	1651	1209	1309	1134	267	220	3227	2563	248	73	207	196	541	585	530	727	1278	1508	2105	2115	181	209	80	57
TOTAL:	1651	1209	1309	1134	267	220	3227	2563	248	73	207	196	541	585	530	727	1278	1508	2105	2115	181	209	80	57
#30																								
Benton	159	122	161	120	87	71	407	313	8	9	27	25	63	42	521	464	611	531	2382	2103	48	17	5	6
Dallas	149	135	101	95	69	79	319	309	15	13	33	30	28	25	206	179	267	234	611	598	17	14	8	5
Hickory	89	89	68	65	61	46	218	200	4	8	40	42	24	18	242	206	306	266	166	340	12	19	3	2
Polk	183	160	166	119	58	45	407	324	17	5	43	42	122	106	299	324	464	472	1614	1569	24	38	8	8
Webster	211	192	139	136	92	83	442	411	33	38	93	85	152	155	278	229	523	469	3228	3219	30	32	22	5
TOTAL:	791	698	635	535	367	324	1793	1557	77	73	236	224	389	346	1546	1402	2171	1972	8001	7829	131	120	46	26
#31																								
Greene	3400	3113	3607	3169	394	307	7401	6589	401	281	428	386	581	539	943	770	1952	1695	9580	8946	1038	277	75	140
TOTAL:	3400	3113	3607	3169	394	307	7401	6589	401	281	428	386	581	539	943	770	1952	1695	9580	8946	1038	277	75	140
#32																								
Bollinger	95	45	41	38	33	21	169	104	0	17	41	30	58	45	99	77	198	152	268	271	25	15	14	0
Cape Girardeau	914	784	693	667	226	241	1833	1692	102	108	147	120	254	218	305	307	706	645	2932	2939	102	98	25	23
TOTAL:	1009	829	734	705	259	262	2002	1796	102	125	188	150	312	263	404	384	904	797	3200	3210	127	113	39	23
#33																								
Mississippi	303	257	129	115	71	69	503	441	13	20	98	83	192	155	239	224	529	462	2812	2672	29	29	12	11
Scott	641	540	356	320	93	88	1090	948	71	60	134	88	409	149	255	205	708	442	1402	1472	48	46	25	45
TOTAL:	944	797	485	435	164	157	1593	1389	84	80	232	171	601	304	494	429	1327	904	4214	4144	77	75	37	56

Continued

CIRCUIT	CIVIL – CIRCUIT		CIVIL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT		CIVIL – SMALL CLAIMS		CIVIL – TOTAL		JUVENILE		CRIMINAL – CIRCUIT		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – FELONY		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – MISDEMEANOR		CRIMINAL – TOTAL		ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – TRAFFIC		PROBATE – DECEDENT'S ESTATE W/LETTER		PROBATE – MINOR&IN ESTATES W/LETTER	
	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D
#34																								
New Madrid	384	293	148	167	53	46	585	506	46	52	131	114	264	177	485	194	880	485	2829	2751	37	25	17	6
Pemiscot	434	386	127	104	46	35	607	525	69	67	153	148	184	168	106	69	443	385	6374	5194	62	51	9	15
TOTAL:	818	679	275	271	99	81	1192	1031	115	119	284	262	448	345	591	263	1323	870	9203	7945	99	76	26	21
#35																								
Dunklin	536	463	242	181	94	85	872	729	55	50	137	143	168	151	155	124	460	418	1407	1361	81	61	16	21
Stoddard	525	399	260	351	177	198	962	948	49	39	64	68	107	167	185	290	356	525	1496	1230	47	37	16	14
TOTAL:	1061	862	502	532	271	283	1834	1677	104	89	201	211	275	318	340	414	816	943	2903	2591	128	98	32	35
#36																								
Butler	781	541	624	589	78	48	1483	1178	119	76	188	104	561	288	1149	658	1898	1050	3366	3254	64	44	18	15
Ripley	158	160	25	5	106	75	289	240	17	19	37	54	13	12	16	5	66	71	–	–	4	3	2	–
TOTAL:	939	701	649	594	184	123	1772	1418	136	95	225	158	574	300	1165	663	1964	1121	3336	3254	68	47	20	15
#37																								
Carter	74	33	92	48	22	15	188	96	5	10	13	4	30	25	158	146	201	175	305	295	9	5	4	1
Howell	441	459	209	149	181	158	831	766	48	41	159	145	273	289	426	401	858	835	2257	2198	72	54	29	21
Oregon	88	67	30	22	22	19	140	108	16	14	28	19	54	65	140	247	222	331	549	514	21	17	8	2
Shannon	82	45	19	16	10	7	111	68	27	39	24	15	74	77	114	96	212	188	601	615	6	6	4	2
TOTAL:	685	604	350	235	235	199	1270	1038	96	104	224	183	431	456	838	890	1493	1529	3712	3622	108	82	45	26

Continued

CIRCUIT	CIVIL – CIRCUIT		CIVIL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT		CIVIL – SMALL CLAIMS		CIVIL – TOTAL		JUVENILE		CRIMINAL – CIRCUIT		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – FELONY		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – MISDEMEANOR		CRIMINAL – TOTAL		ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – TRAFFIC		PROBATE – DECEDENT'S ESTATE W/LETTER		PROBATE – MINOR&INV ESTATES W/LETTER	
	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D
#38																								
Christian	324	285	281	213	0	0	605	498	35	25	39	28	108	82	152	139	299	249	1022	862	23	30	10	9
Douglas	185	159	59	25	21	11	265	195	33	17	55	42	26	8	48	19	129	69	305	275	8	8	7	1
Ozark	115	112	26	15	38	40	179	167	4	5	41	45	46	30	212	179	299	254	303	302	14	28	2	9
Taney	350	248	239	197	93	78	682	523	56	58	40	37	118	112	211	192	369	341	969	974	55	37	28	4
Wright	245	201	173	159	43	31	461	391	30	23	88	92	123	83	183	129	394	304	1149	1091	35	38	37	11
TOTAL:	1219	1005	778	609	195	160	2192	1774	158	128	263	244	421	315	806	658	1490	1217	3748	3504	135	141	84	34
#39																								
Barry	300	255	176	111	30	23	506	389	79	61	52	26	127	93	690	538	869	657	820	766	73	75	19	15
Lawrence	360	316	270	197	119	91	749	604	59	77	51	35	269	94	735	336	1055	465	2526	2261	103	89	26	18
Stone	254	184	120	120	97	65	471	369	27	25	47	26	113	64	584	563	744	653	244	178	31	16	8	4
TOTAL:	914	755	566	428	246	179	1726	1362	165	163	150	87	509	251	2009	1437	2668	1775	3590	3205	210	180	53	37
#40																								
Mcdonald	241	210	133	65	43	38	417	313	31	11	65	51	225	154	323	245	613	450	837	770	40	1	15	5
Newton	489	423	328	259	62	68	879	750	77	41	72	65	179	104	401	143	652	312	2922	2835	61	66	31	12
TOTAL:	730	633	461	324	105	106	1296	1063	108	52	137	116	404	258	724	388	1265	762	3759	3605	101	67	46	17
#41																								
Macon	172	135	28	42	41	17	241	194	72	43	90	82	24	55	81	117	195	254	2026	2123	35	42	18	7
Shelby	76	58	44	27	43	45	163	130	20	18	31	21	37	30	100	74	168	125	958	877	30	32	4	16
TOTAL:	248	193	72	69	84	62	404	324	92	61	121	103	61	85	181	191	363	379	2984	3000	65	74	22	23

CIRCUIT	CIVIL – CIRCUIT		CIVIL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT		CIVIL – SMALL CLAIMS		CIVIL – TOTAL		JUVENILE		CRIMINAL – CIRCUIT		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – FELONY		CRIMINAL – ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – MISDEMEANOR		CRIMINAL – TOTAL		ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT – TRAFFIC		PROBATE – DECEDENT'S ESTATE W/LETTER		PROBATE – MINOR&INC ESTATES W/LETTER	
	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D	F	D
#42																								
Crawford	203	191	211	139	151	93	565	423	30	11	29	20	122	133	241	328	393	498	5570	5058	52	69	22	14
Dent	194	149	91	80	49	56	334	285	16	23	24	18	84	76	419	335	527	429	608	518	17	17	8	5
Iron	115	98	83	98	53	50	251	246	16	16	25	23	40	36	230	217	296	276	426	415	14	11	4	6
Reynolds	86	63	62	44	15	13	163	120	9	5	18	10	39	42	164	147	221	199	308	292	7	10	7	3
Wayne	182	159	84	65	55	50	322	274	17	24	22	15	49	48	247	205	318	268	1021	1001	23	32	10	10
TOTAL:	781	660	531	426	323	262	1635	1348	94	79	118	86	334	335	1301	1232	1753	1662	7942	7284	113	139	51	38
#43																								
Caldwell	94	78	47	36	56	63	197	177	15	14	28	32	56	59	127	114	211	205	950	928	24	34	2	8
Daviess	115	87	49	50	42	41	206	178	34	28	38	45	27	29	169	124	234	198	1236	1135	21	22	9	4
DeKalb	75	83	50	49	0	0	125	132	15	14	38	41	27	20	563	574	618	635	397	350	34	31	4	4
Livingston	238	253	63	56	45	33	346	342	73	71	80	78	71	76	163	127	314	281	1023	1067	49	29	13	12
TOTAL:	522	501	209	191	143	137	874	829	137	127	184	196	181	184	1012	939	1377	1319	3515	4380	128	116	28	28
GRAND TOTAL:	88478	77659	84017	74132	13362	11124	185857	162915	17293	16102	18563	17324	27618	22064	10822	34679	80343	74067	302863	284771	9671	8372	2765	2379

Table 16
CIRCUIT CASES DISPOSED BY
ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGES[1]

January - June, 1979

Circuit	All Circuit Cases Disposed			Disposed By Associate Circuit Judges			% of Circuit Cases Disposed By Associate Circuit Judges		
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
1	114	18	132	21	3	24	18.4%	16.6%	18.2%
2	246	68	314	69	15	84	28.0	22.0	26.8
3	191	61	252	33	2	35	17.2	3.2	13.9
4	191	56	247	10	0	10	5.2	0.0	4.0
5	817	164	981	18	0	18	2.2	0.0	1.8
6[2]	557	256	813	353	187	540	63.3	73.0	66.4
7	1,216	349	1,565	259	36	295	21.2	10.3	18.8
8	140	55	195	2	0	2	1.4	0.0	1.0
9	140	42	182	10	2	12	7.1	4.7	6.6
10	271	39	310	14	10	24	5.1	25.6	7.7
11	943	157	1,100	111	10	121	11.7	6.3	11.0
12	314	158	472	145	56	201	41.6	35.4	42.6
13	895	320	1,215	0	12	12	0.0	3.8	1.0
14	238	85	323	7	0	7	2.9	0.0	2.2
15	240	78	318	4	3	7	1.6	3.8	2.2
16	7,372	1,368	8,740	2,052	0	2,052	27.8	0.0	23.5
17	633	85	718	7	0	7	1.1	0.0	1.0
18	334	111	445	48	17	65	14.3	15.3	14.6
19	435	109	544	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0
20	461	140	601	48	16	64	10.4	11.4	10.6
21	5,803	1,166	6,971	1,927	82	2,009	33.2	7.0	28.8
22	3,011	1,880	4,891	-	-[3]	1,252	-	-	25.6
23[4]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	658	112	770	115	3	118	17.4	2.6	15.3
25	734	89	823	159	2	161	21.6	2.2	19.6
26	523	271	794	45	53	98	8.6	19.5	12.3
27	343	119	462	9	5	14	2.6	4.2	3.0
28	293	174	467	18	67	85	6.1	38.5	18.2
29	619	98	717	334	3	337	53.9	3.0	47.0
30	345	111	456	19	1	20	5.5	0.9	4.4
31	1,301	195	1,496	15	4	19	1.1	2.0	1.3
32	451	74	525	76	2	78	16.8	2.7	14.9
33	347	86	433	58	1	59	16.7	1.1	13.6
34	344	142	486	1	1	2	0.2	0.7	0.4
35	486	100	586	11	4	15	2.2	4.0	2.6
36	375	71	446	52	20	72	13.8	28.1	16.1
37	373	146	519	80	29	109	21.4	19.8	21.0
38	518	131	649	38	1	39	7.3	0.7	6.0
39	445	55	500	21	7	28	4.7	12.7	5.6
40	325	62	387	43	1	44	13.2	1.6	11.4
41	123	47	170	1	4	5	0.8	8.5	2.9
42	378	42	420	26	0	26	6.8	0.0	6.2
43	278	105	383	27	13	40	9.7	12.3	10.4
Totals	33,821	8,997	42,818	-	-	8,210	-	-	19.4

FOOTNOTES: TABLE 16

1
Circuit cases in this table include those which would be outside the jurisdiction of associate circuit judges without the assignment provisions of §478.225 RSMo.

2
Totals reported for cases assigned to associate circuit judges may include cases which originated in associate divisions.

3
Civil and criminal breakdowns are not available.

4
Data for the 23rd circuit could not be included due to reporting incompatibilities.